

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year, four cents per copy. Annual subscription price \$12.

All business or news letters and telegraphic despatches must be addressed New York Herald.

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LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

Subscriptions and Advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

Volume XXXIX, No. 48

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. Twenty-third street and Broadway—FULL LINE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Harkins, Miss Ada Dyer.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Eighth avenue and Twenty-third street—HUMPTY DUMPTY AT SCHOOL, and VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, begins at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. G. L. Fox.

THEATRE COMIQUE. No. 514 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE. Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street—ELENE, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. J. B. Booth.

WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway and Third street—MONEY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Jeffrey Lewis.

OLYMPIA THEATRE. Broadway, between Houston and Eleventh streets—LAUREL and NOVELTY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE. Fourteenth street—EINE VORNEHME EHE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE. Opposite City Hall, Brooklyn—WHITE SWAN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE. Washington street, Brooklyn—AMY ROSSART, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mrs. Conway.

BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery—MARKED FOR LIFE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE. No. 365 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

NIBLO'S GARDEN. Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets—LATELY STOCKING, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

WOOD'S MUSEUM. Broadway, corner of Third street—A QUIET FAMILY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. DANIEL BOONE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BOVEY PASTORS OPERA HOUSE. No. 201 Bowery—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE. Twenty-third street, corner of Sixth avenue—CINDERELLA IN CHAIN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

COLOSSEUM. Broadway, corner of Third street—PARIS BY NIGHT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1874.

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THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN ENGLAND.—A despatch special to the Herald informs us that Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet yesterday sat in solemn council, and, after serious and somewhat protracted deliberation, decided to accept the result of the elections as adverse to their policy, and to place their resignations in the hands of Her Majesty. Great excitement prevailed in London, at the clubs and other political centres, during the afternoon. The Queen is looked for at Windsor to-day, and it is expected that Mr. Gladstone will wait upon Her Majesty and advise her to call Mr. Disraeli to her councils. The latest returns show that Mr. Disraeli will have a working majority of not fewer than fifty members.

The Philadelphia Election—Honest Government in Great Cities.

Philadelphia will choose a new Mayor to-day, or re-elect to that office the gentleman who now holds it, and we find the Philadelphia papers teeming with the chronicle of an animated canvass, in which the speakers handle equally the topics of the old parties, of reform, of public dishonesty, ring robbery, election frauds and the Centennial, which topics strike us as becoming very much the staple of speeches in this era of good intentions. Such contests are usually of strictly local interest; and the outside world might well fancy itself indifferent between the parties when on one side the candidate is a citizen who was formerly held to be a proper man for Mayor by the dominant party of an intelligent and generally upright community, and on the other side the candidate is vouchered for as an absolute necessity of honest administration by prominent public men of great experience and enlightened judgment, of whom Mr. Forney may be taken as the type.

It appears, however, that there is more in the contest than the mere choice of persons; and though it is fought by the aggressive party nominally as the battle of reform, and is such, there seems to us to be something in it beyond the mere issue of honesty and dishonesty. Taken nakedly as a contest of honest men against rogues it would be difficult to understand how Mr. Stokley, presumably in that case the rogues' candidate, could be supported by men like Mr. McMichael, of the North American. It would, perhaps, be less difficult to understand, yet not altogether clear, how he could have come by the republican nomination and the support of a great portion of that party, which may be broadly taken to comprise a very large number of honest and intelligent persons.

Gross corruption is charged against Mr. Stokley and his adherents by the reformers, who sustain Colonel McClure; but it cannot be merely the corruption of Stokley. It must be also the corruption of the republican party, which has not found the gentleman had enough to throw him over, but nominates him again, and, of course, takes the responsibility of whatever fraud or misconduct may be fairly brought to his door. On the one side, therefore, we see an energetic tilt on behalf of honesty in office and fair elections, led by republicans who are so conscientious in the conflict that they are willing to venture the possibility of inflicting some damaging blows on their own party. At the time when the "liberal republicans" placed themselves in the same position on the Presidential canvass it was generally thought that they were the less pained at the likelihood of damaging the republican party because they no longer had any hope to control it, and that they anticipated a more brilliant future in a better party. We would not care to say that the gentlemen now agitating Philadelphia could not frame for themselves a far more admirable political ideal than has yet been found in the republican party, nor can we deny them any possible aspiration toward political perfection in that way. But whether they be simply ordinary bolters or whether the reasons for their action are amply decisive on grounds of public morality, their action is legitimate, and we rejoice to see them pursuing their campaign vigorously. For those who sustain the republican candidate and the alleged ring system and men persistently charged with a conspiracy to falsify the results of elections by fraudulent returns—they seem to reason on that old theory which prefers "the fiend we know to the fiend we don't know." They deem every possibility inside the lines of their own party better than any possibility outside those lines. They fear in this world, and perhaps in the next, only the democrats. There is no unpardonable sin with them but that which gives the victory to the enemy. Have we not seen this on a very much larger scale than the Philadelphia canvass? Is it not notorious at this hour that dishonesty in the grandest proportions, corruption deeper than plummet ever sounded, and injustice and oppression of the boldest stamp, are sustained throughout the nation simply and solely because they happen for this occasion to be the crimes of the republican party? When the United States Senate is shown the full proportions of the turpitude in Louisiana and the President denounces it, Senator Morton deems he has answered all comers by saying, "The republican party wishes no change in that State." It is, then, a national weakness just now to hold on to party, corruption and all, and the quiet old gentlemen of Philadelphia cannot be played alive for it.

For gross municipal corruption to have been discovered in Philadelphia must be a surprise to the people in the rural districts, who thought that that city was the chosen and only home of all the vices; and for a people to be compelled to rise up in revolt against the organized villanies of government in a city controlled by the republican party must surely compel a revision of all the fine theories which traced our bad government to democratic supremacy. Here is William Penn's quadrangle, and they say the Mayor of it is "but little better than one of the wicked." In the cleanliness of Philadelphia streets, in the sweetness of the butter brought to its markets and in the moral purity of its political atmosphere there was implicit faith from the time when Penn cheated the Indians so adroitly that they never knew it; and we suppose that if Rip Van Winkle had been interviewed, when he first came down, upon a series of subjects, the reputation of Philadelphia is a point at which he would have made a stand and refused to hear the whisper of calumny.

Yet she is corrupt. From this fact there is an obvious inference touching municipal corruption generally. It is not local. It depends upon general causes, that give it an equal hold upon the Quaker and Empire cities; but, if our gigantic jobs dwarf those of our neighbors, it is only as our wealth and common expenditure are above theirs. Our political life and its furies are such as to keep out of office absolutely all men who have either reputations to lose or fortunes to place them above temptation. Only a few places in the whole list of offices are free from the operation of this fact, and these are places that are regarded as stepping stones to a larger political career than that of the city. For a long time this fact was observed here, and had not yet reached the smaller cities; but we see that Philadelphia falls under the same ban, and other cities will follow. As

the circle widens, and it is found that no city of large proportions can be governed honestly, save by spasmodic movements of the people, the country at large will wake up to the consideration that our American cities must be controlled on principles radically different from those that now prevail. They will recognize that so-called party divisions never apply in city politics and are only covers and masks for fraud.

Philadelphia is to be congratulated upon the promise for herself implied in the fact that her public men take the alarm readily against impending danger, and come out bravely to fight the evil, with little regard or consideration for party lines. It is urgently to be hoped that Colonel McClure will be elected. Reform movements are very apt to be delusive, as we know, in this direction; but a cause that appeals to the people in the name of political honesty, and presents a good case in support of its appeal, should never be beaten at the polls. Its defeat is the only sign that is absolutely discouraging for popular government. Apathy on the part of the people where their local interests are at stake, or adherence to the shibboleth and hocus-pocus of party names where the only issue is one of honest handling of public money, will indicate that the evil is beyond ordinary remedy.

Spanish Affairs—The Plebiscite.

A special despatch to the Herald gives us to understand that the Spanish government of which Serrano is chief has decided to test by a plebiscite section 33 of the constitution of 1869. Section 33 distinctly says:—"The form of government of the Spanish nation is the monarchy." When this constitution was passed by the Cortes Serrano was Regent of the Kingdom, and the object was to pave the way for a new dynasty. The avowed object of the present movement is to defeat Alfonso's intrigues and to preserve the Republic. On the part of Serrano this is a wise and politic movement. With the constitution of 1869 he is directly and personally connected. Whatever the Spanish people may think of that constitution, whether they like it or dislike it, he cannot afford to ignore it. By adopting this ground Serrano makes his position plain and intelligible to the whole Spanish people. If the constitution of 1869 is approved in this particular, then Spain is a monarchy. If the plebiscite decides to the contrary and condemns section 33, then Spain must remain a republic. This is a great improvement on the past. After all there is some hope for Spain, although it is difficult to resist the conviction that Serrano knows the result beforehand.

THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT we have received from the Five Points House of Industry is for the year ending March, 1873. The Treasurer's account shows that there was received that year from all sources \$44,839, and expended \$40,516. During the year there was expended out of this amount, on "outdoor poor and beneficiaries," \$318, and the Superintendent of this institution objects to free soup kitchens and free lodgings for the starving and homeless "outdoor poor" of the city. To be sure, the Superintendent claims that other outside relief, not specified in the report, was afforded during the year; but we can only take the official figures in the Treasurer's report as facts. If the exhibit is not correct so much the worse for the credit of the institution.

OBJECTING TO UNLOAD.—The committee appointed to investigate the alleged corruptions of the Department of Justice meets with a sudden obstruction. There is a disinclination to "unload" this glaring "monstrosity," because there is danger that Attorney General Landauet Williams may be compelled to go overboard with it. The committee, having sent a resolution to the House asking for authority to send for persons and papers and administer oaths, was informed yesterday that the Speaker regards the resolution as unprecedented and "grossly disrespectful to the Attorney General." How a resolution that has had hundreds of precedents can be unprecedented, and what disrespect there can be in examining the Attorney General's accounts, provided they are honest, we are at a loss to conceive. At all events two republican members of the committee who were not present at the Saturday meeting, when the resolution was adopted, attended yesterday and made a vigorous effort to have it reconsidered. The subject comes up to-day. The very anxiety to prevent a thorough examination and to make the investigation a farce will induce the belief that the Department of Justice is a sink of fraud and iniquity.

THE NEW ALLIANCE AND THE PEACE OF EUROPE.—Are we to have another Holy Alliance? What means the language of the Czar? In his speech on the occasion of the grand dinner given on the 15th in honor of the Emperor Francis Joseph and other illustrious guests, the Emperor claimed that himself, the Emperor of Germany, the Emperor of Austria and the Queen of England were quite able to preserve the peace of the world. Poor France! Poor Turkey! But, after all, the Emperors are not the peoples. Czar Alexander may be too sanguine. Holy alliances in the old sense are no longer possible.

THE MORMON QUESTION BEFORE CONGRESS.—The memorial of the non-Mormon citizens of Utah, which is now before the Committee on Territories, presents the whole Mormon question in a forcible light. The Mormons are evidently alarmed, for Mr. Cannon, the Delegate from Utah, presented a petition from the Legislature of that Territory yesterday, asking for a committee of investigation before any legislative action be taken with regard to Utah. The object of this petition, no doubt, is to stave off the crisis that is inevitable. The general facts are well known both to Congress and the country. Here is a community which lives in open violation of the common law and morality of the Republic, and even in violation of the statute law, and that makes allegiance to the Utah priesthood superior to that due to the government of the country. The question must be met and disposed of, and there is danger in delay.

ANOTHER PAPAL CONSISTORY.—A despatch from Rome, published in the London Standard, states that the Pope will hold another consistory in June next, when eight new cardinals will be created, including Archbishop Manning. The Archbishop of Westminster grows in favor. Would it be wonderful if the next Pope should be an Englishman?

The Financial Problem in the Senate—Free Banking Brought to the Front.

The opening of the twelfth week of this session of Congress marks, in the Senate, an approach to a distinct issue between the East and West on the banking and currency questions, and foreshadows a vigorous and protracted contest. On Mr. Sherman's resolution for a redistribution of the existing currency, which will transfer from the East to the West twenty-five millions, a substitute was offered yesterday by Mr. Cameron which enlarged the field of debate to the widest proportions. His proposition was free banking, embracing the removal of all existing restrictions as to circulation. His argument was ingeniously adapted to the occasion and to the purpose of rallying the inflationists to free banking. We infer from our special reports that, as a Pennsylvanian, General Cameron was placed in the front of this column by the Western men in order to break or weaken the line of Eastern contractionists. The supporting speech of Mr. Pratt, of Indiana, indicated an understanding and a common base of operations.

Mr. Cameron contended that under free banking the increase in the national banks would be determined by the law of supply and demand; that this increase would not be inflation; but supply; that the circulation would be regulated by the wants of the country; that the gradual absorption of greenbacks by the banks would facilitate the return to specie payments, and that, meantime, our national currency, the best we ever had, in being rendered elastic, would meet all the fluctuations of trade. Mr. Pratt followed in the same line of attack on the restrictionists, contending especially that this existing monopoly of the national banks, which has become rich and imperious from the exclusive favors of the government, should be abolished. Mr. Frelinghuysen, evidently alarmed by this development of free banking as the ultimatum of the West, opened at once a scorching fire upon it. He denounced it as the most ruinous scheme of finance ever suggested in this country; that, if adopted, it would prove more disastrous than the rebellion; that it limited the inflation of the currency only to the seventeen hundred and fifty millions of bonds of the government; that it would reproduce the inflation, speculation, depreciation and universal chaos of the free experiment of the French assignats, and that of all things he should deplore the adoption of any such reckless scheme of bad faith, speculation and bankruptcy. The fiery Mr. Flannagan, of Texas, who in discussing anything discussed everything, came up like a southwestern hurricane to the support of Mr. Frelinghuysen; but the contractionists were frightened, and, in moving the recommitment of the whole subject to Mr. Sherman's committee, they only emboldened the Western men. Mr. Logan advanced to the attack and charged that the motion to recommit was a flank movement, a dodge, a maneuver to avoid a vote on the pending question; that the Finance Committee were attempting to steal off in a retreat with muffled drums, but that they could not smother the pending questions nor evade them. They would have to meet them, and might as well meet them now as at any other time. Without a vote upon the question to recommit the Senate adjourned.

The general impression from the day's debate is that the contractionists have been thrown upon the defensive, and that the inflationists, having assumed the offensive, will push on the battle. They appear confident of a decisive majority in the Senate and of success in the House. They certainly have assumed, in the Senate, the attitude of masters of the field.

MR. C. L. BRACE is the Secretary of the Children's Aid Society. Mr. W. F. Barnard is the Superintendent of the Five Points House of Industry. Do they act wisely in denouncing other charities which do not happen to pass through their hands? If people choose to spend money in the relief of suffering in a way which does not require the funds to be subjected to the refining process of either of these charities, why should Messrs. Brace and Barnard complain? Is it not all, in one shape or another, for the benefit of the poor? The anxiety of these well remunerated officials to prevent the expenditure on charitable purposes of any money which does not flow into the treasury of their own institutions, to be distributed "in a discretionary manner," is in very bad taste. It savors of the anxiety of Aminsab Sleek to make his own pocket the depository of all the funds raised for flannel shirts and moral pocket-handkerchiefs for the South Sea Islanders.

GERMANY AND FRANCE.—Alsace and Lorraine promise to be dearly bought conquests to Germany. In the Reichstag yesterday Von Moltke admitted that "what Germany had obtained in a six months' war she would require to protect by force of arms for a century to come." A Deputy from Alsace proposed a plebiscite to test the nationality feeling in the two conquered provinces. Time will settle the question more effectually than a plebiscite, and Von Moltke is no doubt convinced that time is working in favor of the stronger party.

THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS and Assistant Aldermen held meetings yesterday, but no business of interest or importance was transacted by either body. The Supervisors appointed Messrs. Van Schaick, Billings, Morris, Monheimer and McCafferty a committee to solicit and receive subscriptions from city and county officials and the public for the relief of the suffering poor, with power to make such appropriation of the sums collected as they may think proper.

HOW DOCTORS DIFFER.—Among the edifying proceedings of the recent Episcopal Diocesan Council at Milwaukee for the election of a bishop a Rev. Mr. Vermilye said that six doctors of divinity had lied. If he had said that one doctor was mistaken it would have been all right, unless he was wrong, but to charge six D. D.'s with lying was "flat burglary," even though he was right. In a spirit of proper indignation the Rev. Dr. Magoffin declared that such language was outrageous and asked the reporters to notice it. They not only noticed it, but so many other noisy and disgraceful proceedings that we are inclined to think, the clergy of the diocese of Wisconsin need discipline in both morals and manners.

The Philanthropy that Pays—Let Us Have Light.

MR. C. L. BRACE, the Secretary of the Children's Aid Society, and Mr. W. F. Barnard, the Superintendent of the Five Points House of Industry, both salaried philanthropists, thought proper to thrust themselves into notice a few days since as the censors of their neighbors' charities. Neither of them denied the prevalence of extraordinary destitution in the city this winter. It would have been ridiculous to do so in the face of the sad evidences of suffering daily spread before the eyes of the people. But they objected to the use of any "extraordinary means" for its relief. They did not wish to "demoralize and pauperize the poor" by affording them prompt assistance in free lodging houses and soup kitchens. A few scores of homeless wanderers frozen to death in the public streets and a few hundreds of women and children starved to death in garrets and cellars would unquestionably do more than "the wholesale freedom of soup and lodgings" to thin out the ranks of pauperism. No person could deny that. So Messrs. Brace and Barnard insisted that the poor should not be relieved except through the agency of those whose "discretion" and "experience" might be relied upon not to encourage "the growth of the habit of dependence," and urged "well meant but misguided charity" to turn its money over to the treasuries of such "established institutions" as the Children's Aid Society and the Five Points House of Refuge instead of using it directly for such demoralizing purposes as clothing the naked, lodging the homeless and feeding the hungry.

Now, the people respect disinterested philanthropy, but a natural suspicion attaches to the philanthropy that is made to pay. It was difficult to conceive what honest motives could have prompted the salaried philanthropists of these institutions to thrust themselves between the benefactors and the suffering poor; to put themselves forward as censors to decide what charity is discreet and what misguided and demoralizing. Neither the Children's Aid Society nor the Five Points House of Refuge is adapted to the great necessity of the hour—the instant relief of those poor creatures who in the midst of wealth are perishing for the want of the common necessities of life. Why, then, should their officers have intermeddled with other charitable enterprises instead of attending to their own business and doing as much good as possible in their own way? An examination into the management of the two societies furnishes the explanation. The large amounts collected from the charitable and received from the city are made to pay a heavy percentage to those who distribute them, and thus a great portion of the money intended for the poor goes into the pockets of those whose experience and discretion teach them the best methods of checking pauperism and preventing the "demoralization" of poverty. As soon as this discovery is made, Messrs. Brace and Barnard disappear from the scene. They have nothing more to say. They wrap themselves up in the ample folds of their remunerative charities and suffer demoralizing soup to fill the stomachs of the starving poor without further opposition.

It is time that something should be done to strip the mask from those who make a profitable trade of philanthropy. There is no reason why laws should not be passed holding all associations organized for charity, whether public or private, to a strict accountability for the expenditure of the funds placed in their hands for a special purpose. Benevolent citizens are induced to give money to a charitable society because they believe that it will go to help the suffering and the needy, and not to enrich secretaries, superintendents and travelling agents. In the case of societies that have received city or State aid it is eminently proper that an examination should be made into their affairs, and the Legislature ought to investigate both the Children's Aid Society and the House of Refuge. Let us know how the "emigration" account of the former is kept; for one of the travelling agents is a Brace, and there is ample room for leakage in this account. Meanwhile the two institutions should change their present officers, if they expect the donations they have heretofore received to be continued. Our citizens are princely in their charity, but they do not like to be imposed upon. Certainly those who give to these two institutions cannot be well pleased with the knowledge that more than half they donate is swallowed up in distributing the balance among the unfortunate beings for whose relief the whole is designed.

WILLIAM F. BARNARD, Superintendent Five Points House of Industry, is of opinion that if we "let the associations whose objects are to help the poor in a 'discretionary' manner be bountifully supplied with money" (including, of course, the Five Points House of Industry, No. 155 Worth street, William F. Barnard, Superintendent) we shall do better for the starving and homeless thousands of the city than by extending to them "the wholesale freedom of soup and lodgings." But a hungry creature who is in immediate want of a meal and a shivering wanderer who has no shelter for the night may prefer the "wholesale freedom of soup and lodgings" to the aid of an institution like the Five Points House of Industry, however good a charity it may be in its way. An institution which, in the year ending March, 1872, according to its own most favorable showing, expended eighteen thousand dollars on the poor and twenty-one thousand dollars on itself in the work of distribution, cannot be expected to afford that prompt relief which the destitute require in an emergency.

A CURIOUS PETITION FROM IOWA is that which Mr. Wright presented in the Senate yesterday. The petitioners ask for the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee and an increase of the duty on manufactured cotton. We should have thought that an agricultural community like that of Iowa would have been in favor of free tea and coffee and the lowest duty possible on manufactured cotton. However, we are not told how many signed the petition. There may be a few individuals in that State who have a stock of tea and coffee on hand or a small cotton mill in operation. We rather think the petitioners occupy much the same position to their State as the Tooley street tailors did to their country when they spoke in the name of the people of England.

The Arctic Meeting at the Cooper Institute.

The Polaris meeting last evening was one of the most enthusiastic ever held in New York. Convened in honor of the survivors of the Polaris expedition, it was opened, happily, by the election of over two hundred additional Fellows of the Geographical Society, embracing the names of the foremost public men of the Union. That these gentlemen received the high honor of being elected Fellows of that progressive society is another proof that a scientific body, with lofty aims, and in harmony with the spirit of the times, can constitute itself an authority upon its specialty, and that its decisions will be respected by the public. Our societies in general move with a snail-like pace, years behind the journalism of the times, and this is the reason that so many of them go into garrets to languish and die of stagnation. Those of our readers who will attentively peruse the proceedings of last evening at the meeting of the Geographical Society will find a great mystery explained—the Polaris expedition finally buried with imposing obsequies. The entire Arctic problem, from enumeration to the higher mathematics, is exhaustively yet tersely treated by Dr. Hayes. Few who listened to his discourse ever heard a more interesting address, whether its merits be considered as oratorical or scientific. The statements of Captain Tyson and Mr. Bryan differed as to the ability of the Polaris to proceed further to the northward, and the question can be definitely settled only by sending another expedition to find out if there be really an open Polar Sea. The resolutions adopted by the Geographical Society are eminently just and proper, and should be favorably considered by the government.

Rapid Transit and the Property Owners.

A communication in to-day's Herald from Mr. W. H. Potter urges upon the various associations formed in the interest of property owners in New York the expediency of some united and efficient action in the matter of rapid transit. The suggestion is a good one. The railroad question is one of more importance to the property owners than all others put together. Rapid transit, connecting the Battery with the Westchester border by a steam railroad that would carry passengers the whole distance in less than half an hour, would increase the value of real estate in every locality. The presidents of the different associations should move promptly and energetically in the matter. They are:—Mr. William R. Martin, of the West Side Association; Mr. Charles Crary, of the East Side Association; Mr. William B. Harrison, of the Washington Heights and North End Improvement Association; Mr. Lewis G. Morris, of the North Side Association; Mr. William Dunning, of the People's Rapid Transit Association, and Mr. Peter Cooper, of the Citizens' Association. These gentlemen would form a good committee to undertake the management of the movement. The object should be to urge on the Legislature the passage of a bill giving the Governor the authority to appoint a commission in whose hands the whole question of rapid transit should be placed, with power to build a road or roads with the city's money, raised on rapid transit bonds. The commissioners would then have the right to decide upon the plan to be adopted, and the various schemes would be submitted to them for their decision.

THE HOWARD COURT OF INQUIRY.—The officers the President has appointed as a court of inquiry in the case of General Howard will, no doubt, give satisfaction. No one will be disposed to question the integrity of Generals Sherman, McDowell, Pope, Meigs and Holt, and of the Judge Advocate, Major Gardner, or of the fairness of a trial under them. The court is to meet on the 3d of March. It is due both to General Howard and the public that a thorough investigation should be made, and with such a court we may expect justice will be done whether it be in the conviction or acquittal of General Howard.

ACTING ON THE ALDERMANIC suggestion, the Park Commissioners have finished the fountain in the City Hall Park; but, mindful of the use to which Aldermen generally put cold water, they have surrounded the basin with stands of liquor decanters, which, if not very tasteful, will no doubt take off the cold look of the fountain in Aldermanic eyes.

THE NEWS FROM THE WEST INDIES, which reached us last night from Halifax, contains the usual amount of insular financial and agricultural intelligence, but has nothing of actual importance. The condition of the public health was satisfactory, despite the prevalence of statements of cholera outbreaks.

WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17—1 A. M.

ON TUESDAY, FOR NEW ENGLAND AND THE MIDDLE STATES, NORTHWEST TO SOUTHWEST WINDS, SOMEWHAT LOWER TEMPERATURES AND GENERALLY CLEAR WEATHER.

For the South Atlantic States, northwest winds, falling temperature, rising barometer and cloudy weather.

For the Gulf States, northeast to southeast winds, cloud and rain.

For the Ohio Valley, rising barometer and partly cloudy weather, followed by northeast winds and cloud or rain by Tuesday night.

For the upper lake region, northwest to southwest winds, lower temperature and generally clear weather.

For the lower lakes, westerly winds, rising barometer, cool, clear or partly clear weather.

Cautionary signals continue at Wood's Hole, Boston and Portland, and are ordered for Eastport.

In Western Texas a norther is probable Tuesday evening.

The Weather in This City Yesterday.

The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudson's Pharmacy, Herald Building:—

1873.	1874.	1873.	1874.
3 A. M.	29	3:30 P. M.	34
6 A. M.	28	6 P. M.	32
9 A. M.	29	9 P. M.	35
12 M.	35	12 P. M.	33
Average temperature yesterday		38 1/2	
Average temperature for corresponding date last year		31 1/2	

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

Retirement and Assignments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1874.

General Eaton, Commissary General, was returned to-day by order of the President.

General Shiras has been assigned to duty as Commissary General, and General Amos Beckwith assigned to duty in the office in Washington, by order of the President.